number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) required. An alternative method called 'Small Area Crop Estimation Method' (SACEM) for assessing the yield rates which is devised by Indian Agriculture and Statistical Research Institute (IASRI) is in the process of experimentation.

Coconut Technology Mission

336. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, during his stay at Kumarakam in Kerala, offered to set up a Coconut Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far, to establish the same;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) by when, the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Prime Minister during his visit to Kerala in December, 2000 announced setting up of a Technology Mission on Coconut.

(b) In pursuance to the announcement made by the Prime Minister, Government of India sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme on Technology Mission on Coconut with an outlay of Rs.400 lakhs for 2001-02 as part of the IX Plan. The scheme address issues relating to technology development, demonstrations and adoption in the field of the insect/pest and disease management; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. The scheme has focus on convergence and synergy among numerous ongoing programmes in the field of coconut development in order to bring in horizontal and vertical integration of these programmes to ensure adequate, appropriate, timely and concurrent attention to all the links in the production, processing, product diversification etc. Through the programmes of the mission, market potential of coconut products have been enhanced which has helped in improving the prices of coconut.

(c) and (d) The Project Approval Committee constituted to sanction the projects under the scheme has sanctioned following projects:

- Development of mycoacaricide for the control of mite.
- Large scale production of antiserum for the confirmation of root wilt resistant palms.
- Adoption of technology for the control of mite in Karnataka
- Development of technology to utilize coconut oil as alternate automobile lubricant.
- Production of dietary fiber from coconut residue.
- Adoption of technology for integrated processing of tender nut water.
- Establishment of quality testing laboratory at Bangalore.
- Demand, cost and supply of non traditional coconut products on consumers buying behaviour in Tamil Nadu-Market assessment.
- Risk management instruments and capacity building in market intelligence for copra micro enterprises in India.
- Market promotion of Elaneer concentrate through installation of 31 kiosks at different place.
- Market promotion through participations in Food Fairs and market research.

The scheme is continuing during the year 2002-2003 with an outlay of Rs.20.00 crore. The scheme is proposed to be continued during X Plan period.

Target of foodgrain production

337. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) targets for growth of foodgrains vis-a-vis agriculture set under the Ninth Five Year Plan;